Claims

1   1. A method for receiving an alert code in a commercial transaction, comprising

2   the steps of:

3   using a transactional device in a commercial transaction; and

4   receiving an alert code attached to transaction data for the commercial

5   transaction.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

           contacting a message center with a message, prior to the using step; and

           receiving a transaction request, after the using step.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

2   attaching an alert code to transaction data in response to the transaction

3   request, prior to the receiving step;

4   sending the alert code attached to the transaction code; and

5   retrieving the message in response to the received alert code.

1   4. The method of claim 3, wherein the retrieving step comprises the steps of:

2   contacting the message center;

3   providing a unique identifier; and

4   retrieving the message from the message center.

1 5. The method of claim 3, wherein the retrieving step comprises retrieving the

2 message from a sender.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the transactional device is selected from the

2 group consisting of a magnetic device, and a machine-readable code containing

3 device.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the alert code is unrelated to the commercial

transaction.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the alert code is appended to the transaction

code.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the alert code is prepended to the transaction

2 code.

1   10. A method for receiving an alert code in a commercial transaction, comprising

2   the steps of:

3   contacting a message center with a message;

4   using a transactional device in a commercial transaction;

5   identifying an intended recipient of the message;

6   attaching an alert code to transaction data for the transaction, wherein the

7   alert code is unrelated to the transaction;

8   receiving the alert code attached to the transaction data; and

9   retrieving the message in response to the received alert code.

11   11. The method of claim 10, wherein the retrieving step comprises the steps of:

                   contacting the message center;

12   providing a unique identifier corresponding to the intended recipient; and

3   retrieving the message from the message center.

4

1   12. The method of claim 10, wherein the retrieving step comprises retrieving the

2   message from a sender.

1   13. The method of claim 10, wherein the transactional device is a magnetic

2   device.

1   14. The method of claim 10, wherein the attaching step comprises appending an

2   alert code to transaction data for the transaction.

1   15. The method of claim 10, wherein the attaching step comprises embedding an

2   alert code to transaction data for the transaction.

16. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of alerting a transactional

clerk of the contact.

1   17. A system for receiving an alert code in a commercial transaction, comprising:

2   a message reception system for receiving a message;

3   a recipient identification system for identifying an intended recipient of the

4   message based upon use of a transactional device during a commercial

5   transaction;

6   an attachment system for attaching an alert code to transaction data for the

7   transaction; and

8   a message transmission system for transmitting the received message.

        18. The system of claim 17, wherein the message reception system records the

        message, and wherein the message transmission system plays the recorded

        message.

1   19. The system of claim 17, wherein the recipient identification system identifies

2   the intended recipient based upon a transactional device identification.

1   20. The system of claim 17, wherein the alert code is unrelated to the commercial

2   transaction.

1   21. The system of claim 17, further comprising a subscription system for the

2   intended recipient to subscribe to a message service.

1　　22. A program product stored on a recordable medium for receiving an alert code

2　　in a commercial transaction, which when executed, comprises:

3　　　　　program code configured to receive a message;

4　　　　　program code configured to identify an intended recipient of the message

5　　based upon use of a transactional device during a commercial transaction;

6　　　　　program code configured to attach an alert code to transaction data for the

7　　commercial transaction; and

8　　　　　program code configured to transmit the received message.

　　　23. The program product of claim 22, wherein program code configured to receive

　　the message records the message, and wherein program code configured to

　　transmit the received message plays the recorded message.

1　　24. The program product of claim 22, wherein program code configured to

2　　identify the intended recipient identifies the intended recipient based upon a

3　　transactional device identification.

1　　25. The program product of claim 22, wherein the alert code is unrelated to the

2　　commercial transaction.

1   26. The program product of claim 22, further comprising program code

2   configured to allow the intended recipient to subscribe to a message service.